

Weather Forecast

Cloudy, highest near 40 today. More rain or snow during night and tomorrow. Lowest tonight about 32. (Full report on Page A-2.)

Temperatures Today.

Midnight	30	6 a.m.	31	11 a.m.	35
2 a.m.	29	8 a.m.	32	Noon	35
4 a.m.	30	10 a.m.	34	1 p.m.	36

New York Markets Closed Today.

96th Year. No. 43. Phone NA. 5000.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1948—FIFTY-SIX PAGES. ★★

Guide for Readers

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An Associated Press Newspaper

City Home Delivery, Daily and Sunday, \$1.50 a Month. When 5 Sundays, \$1.50. 5 CENTS

Feed Price Cut Up to 23 Pct. Reported Here

Further Reduction Seen In Egg, Poultry, And Meat Costs

TAFT SEES SOLUTION OF price-wage spiral in commodities decline. Page A-3

Feed prices have taken a sharp drop, ranging as high as 23 per cent, retailers and wholesalers in the Washington area disclosed today.

Lower feed prices increase the prospect of further reductions in some foods, such as eggs, poultry and meat.

One manufacturer, J. C. Herbert Bryant, executive vice president of Herbert Bryant, Inc., in Alexandria, said the reductions in feed prices were the sharpest he had seen in 16 years.

He estimated the average reduction in wholesale prices was 20 per cent. Slashes are being made in both mixed and high protein feeds, he said.

Predates Grain Break.

Prices of feed started sliding even before the sharp break in the grain markets on February 4.

Charles Staub, a retailer at Beallsville, Md., reported they began dropping around February 1 and that each day brought new and lower quotations. Hog feed, for instance, was down from a high of \$13.20 a ton to \$11.00 today, he said. His feed is supplied by a large Ohio manufacturer.

He said many farmers had stopped buying expensive feed and that dealers' business was off as much as 50 per cent as a result.

Southern States Co-operative at Gaithersburg, Md., listed these changes in feed prices since the first of the month: Chicken feed, \$17 to \$9.3 a ton; 20 per cent protein dairy feed, \$10.4 to \$9.1; shelled corn, \$14 to \$8.7; bran meal, \$9.1 to \$7.0; and soybean oil meal, \$19.60 to \$16.50, down 27 per cent.

Meanwhile, Washington food stores offered housewives a growing range of price reductions, with meat leading the way.

75 Cents a Pound Steak.

Some meat cuts were down as much as 6 cents a pound. One large retail outlet listed top-grade sirloin steak at 75 cents a pound, a 4-cent reduction from last week.

Small independent stores also joined in the price-cutting, with one which started early this week with chain stores. Such staples as butter, oleomargarine, sugar, flour and bacon were marked down a few cents in the smaller stores.

From at least one independent food store operator, a complaint that chain store reductions were being made in advance of any wholesale price cuts. "They are jumping the gun," David Epstein, owner of a market in the Columbia road area declared.

Butter and Eggs Down.

"The small operator can't beat because he has not received any reductions," the retailer added.

Housewives, however, were warned by several leading wholesalers that meat price cuts may be short-lived. They cited a strengthening of the hog market at large marketing centers yesterday and reports that farmers had stopped rushing their livestock to market.

Major United States commodity markets, as well as security exchanges, were closed today in observance of Lincoln's birthday.

Winnipeg Grain Market. The only exchange operating, reported trading inactive and futures prices of oats and barley steady.

Livestock price trends varied widely. In Chicago hogs were actively sold at prices ranging from 50 cents lower to 25 cents higher. Cattle prices were unchanged to 50 cents lower. Lamb was 25 cents higher.

Hogs Higher at East St. Louis.

East St. Louis stockyard prices showed hogs higher, cattle steady and sheep sold. In St. Paul cattle trading was sluggish and prices slipped. Few hogs or sheep were sold.

The three big American manufacturers—Procter & Gamble, Lever Bros. and Colgate—announced a dropped wholesale prices 5 per cent. Fats and oils used in making soap have dropped recently.

More New York food retailers fell in line behind the big chain stores in price slashes. Wholesale prices for hind quarters of beef dropped 4 cents a pound and an independent retailer observed, "It's been a long time since they were begging you to buy choice beef."

Sidney Kolker, chairman of the wholesale meat division of Merchants and Manufacturers Association, maintained that many retail price cuts were unrealistic and did not reflect the actual drop in wholesale prices.

Raymond Briggs, former chair-

(See FOOD, Page A-2.)

Italian Cabinet Approves French Customs Union

By the Associated Press

ROME, Feb. 12.—The Italian government today approved the creation of a customs union with France.

The cabinet, in approving the report of a joint Italian-French committee which planned the union, instructed Foreign Minister Carlo Sforza to negotiate completion of the pact with French officials.

Churchill Feared Italian Part in War

"On May 15 (1940) Ambassador Kennedy cabled a striking conversation he had just had with Churchill. The Prime Minister said he was sending the President a message that, if Italy entered the war, he considered the winning of Cordell Hull writes in his memoirs today. (See Page A-15.)

Gandhi Ashes Poured on Waters Of Three Sacred Hindu Rivers

Son Commits Remains to Holy Streams as Hundreds of Thousands Witness Ceremony

By the Associated Press

ALLAHABAD, India, Feb. 12.—The ashes of Mahatma Gandhi were committed today to the sacred rivers of India while millions bowed in grief.

At Triveni Sangham, the confluence of Hinduism's three most sacred rivers, Gandhi's son Ramdas kissed the copper funeral urn bearing the remains of his father in the principal ritual.

He handed the urn to another son, Devadas. The ashes were poured out. The wind whipped Gandhi's mortal remains into a grayish spray which settled slowly upon the water.

Other rites for the assassinated Mahatma were carried out simultaneously throughout India. Portions of Gandhi's ashes had been sent to all provinces as a symbol of the bond between Gandhi and his people.

Hundreds of thousands of persons had trudged the 7 miles in the blistering midday heat from Allahabad to Triveni Sangham. More hundreds of thousands lined the route. They represented all strata of Indian life. The colorfully turbaned rich, the almost naked poor,

holy men, fakirs, all made the pilgrimage. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru marched at the head of the procession. A motor-driven coach decorated to simulate a temple carried the urn with Gandhi's remains.

Picked troops marched with the procession, their rifles reversed, forming a moving barrier about the funeral coach. Behind them were police lancers on horseback and heavy weapons carriers.

But the crowds lining the route, the marchers and the uncounted thousands waiting at Triveni Sangham, all were sober and orderly. They gazed raptly at the urn, hands clasped before them. Some sang Gandhi's favorite hymns as the procession moved by.

The solemn parade moved slowly to the scene of the last rites. At the river bank the urn was transferred carefully to a white-painted amphibious craft—a lowly army duck—on which a deck had been built.

Accompanying the urn aboard were the chief mourners, Gandhi's sons, Devadas and Ramdas; Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, home minister. (See GANDHI, Page A-4.)

Veteran Dealer Denies Commodity Traders Had 'Inside' Tips

Creekmore Testifies For Senate Probers, Maynard Faces Call

By the Associated Press

A veteran New Orleans cotton dealer told Senators today there isn't any basis for talk of "inside" government information "leaking" to commodity speculators.

Lolled back in the Senate Agriculture Committee's witness chair, E. F. Creekmore, speaking for the American Cotton Shippers' Association, said there may have been leaks at one time, but not in recent years.

He said: "I have never yet heard of any leaks coming out of the Department of Agriculture."

"There has been no chance for inside information legislatively (from Congress) because Congress has not been considering farm commodities."

The Agriculture Committee is one of three congressional groups currently inquiring into speculation in cotton, grain and other commodities. The others are a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee and a special House committee.

Maynard's Call Hinted.

Interest just now is centered on the break in the grain market. The Senate Appropriations group has hinted it may have E. T. Maynard of Chicago before it Monday to tell how he made a \$200,000-plus profit from the drop in grain prices in the last week.

While Mr. Creekmore was testifying, Senator Young, Republican of Indiana, brought in Mr. Maynard's name. Senator Young said the grain price collapse may have been caused by "big gamblers" and outsiders who commodity speculators.

Senator Young said he favors an investigation of Mr. Maynard's market activities. He said he could not understand the Chicagoans' rich profits on the price break.

"I don't see how a man without some information on which to work in co-operation with other big gamblers could do it," Senator Young said.

The Senator added that if 20 large speculators joined in selling wheat that would send prices down.

Mr. Creekmore said he does not. (See SPECULATION, Page A-4.)

Two Turkish Fighter Planes Shot Down by Bulgarians

By the Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria, Feb. 12.—The Bulgarian Telegraph Agency says two Turkish fighter planes were shot down Monday by Bulgarian coastal guards.

The report, issued yesterday, said one of the pilots, reportedly in the Black Sea, off the Port of Sopot. The other was said to have been injured and captured.

Antiaircraft guns apparently were used. The agency said the guards warned the planes by flashing red lights that they were over Bulgarian territory, but the planes ignored the warnings and circled Sopot several times before being downed.

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Feb. 12 (AP).—A Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that Bulgarian antiaircraft guns shot down two Turkish Spitfire planes over Bulgaria Monday.

The planes apparently were from a large group purchased from Great Britain last year.

World War I Flyer Reported Chosen for Vacancy in CAB

By James J. Streib

Associated Press Staff Writer

President Truman is reported to have selected Harold A. Jones of Pasadena, Calif., 50-year-old lawyer and World War I marine flyer, for a place on the Civil Aeronautics Board.

Several persons close to the situation but who cannot be named said Mr. Jones has agreed to take the \$10,000-a-year job.

Mr. Jones would succeed Clarence Young, who resigned last October to manage the Los Angeles Municipal Airport.

Mr. Jones must fill two other CAB vacancies, including the chairmanship. The chairmanship has been open since January 1 when James M. Landis' term expired and Mr. Truman decided against reappointing him. Harlee Branch, a

Costa Rica Nips Beaten Parties' Revolt Attempt

Defeated Candidate's Backers Thwarted in Plot to Install Him

By the Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Feb. 12.—Troops and police nipped today a plot to overthrow Costa Rica's government and install former President Rafael Calderon Guardia.

The attempted coup began with violence last night over Sunday's presidential elections. A policeman was killed and several persons were wounded in shooting which continued into the early morning.

Gangs raced through the streets. They wore the blue, yellow and red armbands of the Republican National and the red armbands of the Vanguardia Popular (Communist) Party, both supporters of Mr. Calderon.

Calderon Concedes Defeat.

Mr. Calderon trails by 10,000 votes in Sunday's election and has conceded the victory of publisher Otilio Ulate Blanco of the Union Nacional Party. Final returns will not be announced before February 25.

However, Mr. Calderon has charged fraud. Mr. Ulate said yesterday he learned the Communists and some army men planned a coup, but outgoing President Teodoro Picado Michalski said he was confident such a move could be repelled.

A government source said the coup was plotted by the Communists, and that the Republican National was not involved. He said the first step was a vain attempt to seize a barracks. He added it probably failed because the plotters lacked too soon.

Defense Minister Rene Picado, brother of the retiring president, agreed yesterday to support Mr. Ulate.

Business Area Patrolled.

Shots rang out frequently in the capital this morning. Half-tracks loaded with soldiers raced through the streets with sirens screaming. Mobile troops patrolled the business district. The presidential guard said machinegun fire broke out within the Bella Vista police and army barracks and that then the firing became general throughout the business district. People ducked into doorways or dropped to the sidewalks.

A short time after the shooting started, the opposition party's radio station broadcast an appeal for help, saying Calderonists were besieging the station. Later the threat apparently was removed.

Informed quarters said it was entirely possible another attempt at a coup will be made. President Picado said the government was prepared to repulse any new attempt.

6,000 Persons Assembled.

A crowd of about 6,000 assembled here last night in apparent show of strength by the Republican National Party. It appeared peaceable, although some members carried clubs. Later shooting broke out and from then on the demonstration became a riot.

A policeman was shot to death and civilians were wounded as the firing continued. Nobody seemed sure who started the shooting.

Some members of the Republican National Party ran through the streets shouting "Victory!"

Police leaped from windows of a government building, their rifles ready. Machinegun fire crackled near the headquarters of the Communist Party.

Ulatistas Are Blamed.

One officer of the presidential guard accused the Ulatistas of beginning the shooting.

Ambulances sped through the streets taking wounded direct. Testimony disclosed that Corp. Claycomb had been killed during the Communist Party.

Half-track units moved into the streets and infantry troops began patrolling.

Berlin Dentist Gets Death For Killing U. S. Soldier

By the Associated Press

BERLIN, Feb. 12.—Dr. Werner Raabe, Berlin dentist, was convicted and sentenced to death yesterday for murdering Corp. Stanley H. Claycomb of New Enterprise, Pa.

An American military court headed by Lt. Col. Leo A. Swoboda of Kansas City ordered the 25-year-old Raabe executed "by such means and at such time and place as higher authority may direct."

Testimony disclosed that Corp. Claycomb had been killed during a quarrel over a black market transaction.

The dentist's lawyer asked for acquittal. He said Raabe had killed the corporal with a hatchet in self-defense.

Capt. Albert A. Sadler of Atlanta, Ga., the prosecutor, said the crime was "cold blooded, deliberate, premeditated murder perpetrated to avoid payment of 30,000 marks" (\$5,000). Raabe formerly was a German Army medical officer.

Toronto Oil Refinery Fire Causes \$500,000 Loss

By the Associated Press

TORONTO, Feb. 12.—An oil refinery fire near downtown Toronto was reported under control early today after burning since 5 p.m. Fire department officials estimated damage roughly at \$500,000.

The fire was in the center of the eastern water front oil refining district at the refinery of the British-American Oil Co. at Keating and Cherry streets.

One warehouse was destroyed and a gallons of fuel and lubricating oil, stored in drums, were lost.

The blaze was the first four-alarm fire here in three years. It was believed to have started in a truck at a loading platform. The cause was not determined.



It's An Ill Wind That Blows Nobody Good

Truman Leads Throng Honoring Lincoln in Rites at Memorial

Mrs. Truman Attends Rites; Aides Place Wreath as President Stands at Attention

By the Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD HONORS LINCOLN at Tomb and Friendship Train. Page A-2

President Truman honored the memory of Abraham Lincoln today by attending ceremonies at the Lincoln Memorial marking the 139th anniversary of the birth of the Civil War President.

Accompanied by Mrs. Truman and his service aides, Mr. Truman arrived at 12:30 p.m. to the accompaniment of the customary musical honors by the Marine Band. He stood bareheaded at the foot of the steps leading to the Memorial as the "Star Spangled Banner" was played and his wreath was placed by Capt. Robert Lee Dennison and Col. Robert B. Landry, naval and air aides. Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, Army aide, remained at Mr. Truman's side.

Gray skies and icy footing held down the attendance at the annual ceremony, which was sponsored by the Military Order of the Loyal Legion and the Office of National Capital Parks. A small rectangle of green carpeting was placed on the sidewalk for the presidential party, which also included Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, Mr. Truman's personal Chief of Staff.

On their arrival Mr. and Mrs. Truman were greeted by W. Elkins Reed, recorder of the sponsoring order, and Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant III, commander of the District Commandery of the order. The order was formed by union officers an hour after Lincoln's death.

Other wreaths placed during the brief program included those of the Navy League, the Jewish War Veterans, the United Spanish War Veterans, the American War Mothers, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of the Revolution, the Navy League, the Jewish War Veterans and the Boy and Girl Scouts.

More than 100 delegates to the 12th biennial jubilee convention of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods this morning gathered earlier at the Memorial for wreath-laying ceremonies. The group heard Jesse Cohen of New York, federation president, praise Lincoln.

Meanwhile, nearby Maryland was (See LINCOLN, Page A-2.)

Bankruptcy Discharge Waived by Williams, To Attack Truman's Permitting Later Suits

Convicted Home Builder Says He Plans to Repay Defrauded Veterans

By George Beveridge

Despite conviction on charges of defrauding veterans in his housing deals, George H. Williams voluntarily has taken steps to allow himself to be sued for huge debts, it was learned today.

The surprise action came in a letter yesterday to John A. Bresnahan, District bankruptcy referee, in which Williams waived his chances of being discharged as bankrupt.

He had cleared him of all debts connected with his housing efforts.

At the same time, he said in the letter that he intends to pay back "every nickel" he owes.

The 39-year-old former real estate man was convicted by a District Court jury last Wednesday on charges of using the mails to defraud veterans and sending forged checks in interstate commerce. He faces sentence a week from tomorrow by Justice Alexander Holtzoff.

Involuntary Bankruptcy.

Williams efforts to build homes for more than 100 veterans came to an abrupt close in December, 1946, when he was forced into involuntary bankruptcy. Since then he has been protected from any legal action by creditors.

If Williams were declared bankrupt, legal action to collect his debts, including more than \$100,000 which veterans deposited with him for homes, would be barred forever. Mr. Bresnahan was to hold (See WILLIAMS, Page A-4.)

Atom Scientist Coming Here

LONDON, Feb. 12 (AP).—Prof. Niels Bohr, Danish atom scientist, left yesterday for the United States, the Danish Embassy said today. His mission and means of travel were not disclosed.

Late News Bulletin

Drive Reaches \$33,729

The National Symphony has collected a total of \$33,729, or 20.4 per cent of its \$165,000 sustaining fund goal, in its campaign to continue the orchestra next year, it was announced today. The announcement came at a report luncheon of campaign workers at the Mayflower Hotel. The drive opened February 3 and ends February 28.

Foul Weather Covers Entire Country East Of Rocky Mountains

Snow, Cold, Sleet, Rain Plague Many Areas; Below Zero in West

By the Associated Press

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.—Winter dealt a four-punch of cold, snow, sleet and rain over a wide section of the country today—from the Rockies to the Eastern Seaboard.

The worst of the bad weather hit the Kansas-Oklahoma-Texas Panhandle, sections of the mountain States and the Gulf region. The north central area got more sleet than snow—a promise of moderating temperatures.

Freezing rain and snow hit sections of the Eastern States but the cold wave in the New England region appeared ended.

Below Zero in West.

The mercury was below zero today over most of Colorado, Montana, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin and parts of Iowa, and was near the zero mark in sections of Michigan, Illinois and Indiana. Some of the lowest readings included—18 at Aberdeen, S. D.;—17, Sioux Falls, S. D.;—14, Willmar, Minn.;—11, Minneapolis, and—8 at Sioux City and Mason City, Iowa.

Schools were closed and highways impassable in many areas of the Panhandle region. In Central and Northern Kansas 100 schools closed to conserve gas supplies for home heating. In the Oklahoma Panhandle school classes were discontinued as the coldest weather of the winter season hit the area.

Temperatures of zero to five below zero forecast for tonight. Highway travel was nearly halted and scores of cars were snowbound.

The snowstorm which swept over parts of Colorado and New Mexico appeared dying out as crews worked to clear highways of mountainous drifts. Temperatures were below zero but were expected to moderate.

Sleet and snow pelleted parts of Northern Texas as temperatures throughout many sections of the State dropped below freezing. At Corpus Christi, Tex., the midnight temperature was 66 and 120 miles (See COLD, Page A-4.)

House Receives Report On New Retirement Bill

Chairman Rees of the House Civil Service Committee today filed in the House the conference report on the new civil service retirement bill which liberalizes benefits to Federal workers.

Contents of the agreement by conferees on separate Senate and House bills were disclosed when the report was agreed to last week.

Representative Rees in a brief speech to the House, characterized the measure as "an extremely important piece of legislation."

He asked that members of the House read the bill "very carefully" to be familiar with its provisions when it comes before the House for action "sometime next week."

The House will act first on the conference report, which then would go to the Senate.

Snowslide Hurls 3 Cars of Train Into Gorge; Passengers Escape

By the Associated Press

ALAMOSA, Colo., Feb. 12.—A thundering snowslide swept three tiny cars on a mountain railway into a precipitous gorge last night, but all 14 occupants miraculously escaped death.

Two of the persons escaped without injury. Two men and three women were hospitalized. The others were treated for minor injuries and released.

The narrow gauge Denver and Rio Grande Western train makes a daily round trip from Alamosa to Durango and return. It was 50 miles from here at Toltec Gorge, in the Cumbres Mountains, when the slide struck without warning.

The two engines needed to pull it up the winding roadbed, a baggage car and an express car were safely past the danger point. The avalanche was 100 feet wide and 10 feet deep.

The impact cut loose the last three cars—two chair cars, and a combination parlor-dinette car. Snow engulfed them, then went under and ahead of them, providing a cushion that somehow held the cars upright.

Some 400 feet down the 40-degree slope, the first chair car smashed against a tree, came to a halt only a few yards before the highway. The gorge broke into a cliff dropping another 500 feet. The second coach stopped after 300 feet and the parlor car came to a halt 30 feet from the track.

Most seriously injured was George Atwood of Alamosa, a brakeman who was taken to the Rio Grande Hospital at Salida, Colo., with chest injuries.

Also taken to Salida was Victor Engle, Railway Express messenger, of Alamosa. Both were reported in good condition.

The shaken passengers were brought to Alamosa, 50 miles north-east of the scene of the snowslide. (See AVALANCHE, Page A-4.)

Icy Streets Close County Schools, Disrupt Traffic

Some Relief Predicted; Many Late for Work As Buses Are Delayed

CONFERENCE to ease D. C. fuel oil shortage slated in New York. Page B-1

Washington area traffic was disrupted again today when freezing rains sheathed highways and streets with a coating of ice, interrupting bus schedules and closing schools in near-by Fairfax and Prince Georges Counties.

Rising temperatures, which reached 32 at 7:30 o'clock and promised to touch 40 during the day, indicated better conditions for evening traffic, but the Weather Bureau warned that icy conditions may develop again tonight.

Slipping and slipping on glazed roads, vehicles found many hills impossible to climb this morning. Many buses were forced to the curbs while passengers waited impatiently for a chance to reach work. Capital Transit reported schedules from 30 minutes to an hour late on all routes.

Nearly 100 Persons Hospitalized.

The going was even more dangerous for pedestrians than for motorists, police reporting that nearly 100 persons in the Metropolitan Area required hospital treatment for falls on slippery pavements.

The Commissioners took notice of the large number of accidents and falls by appealing to Washington residents to keep their shoes clear of ice and snow. They urged sprinkling of sand "or other nonskid substance—except salt—whenever and wherever required."

Driving carefully to avoid a repetition of the four-hour delays between 8 p.m. and midnight yesterday, when 60 accidents were reported by police, downtown-bound motorists took twice as long to traverse their home-to-work routes this